



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board
From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator
Re: Recent Activities
Date: October 12, 2018

Transit:

- MassDOT is awarding \$10,190,744 in Community Transit grants to enhance transportation for elderly and disabled persons. These grants are funded with both Federal formula funds (section 5310) and state Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) bonds.

A majority of the funding (\$8,050,620) will cover 80% of the cost of 144 lift equipped vehicles to be purchased for Regional Transit Authorities, Councils on Aging, and non-profits. Awards are made on the basis of a competitive process in which applications are scored based on factors such as the proposed program and the applicant's financial capacity to sustain the program. Grantees are responsible for providing the 20% match, as well as all operating and maintenance costs. The vehicles selected can be any of six types that MassDOT orders from eligible vendors after a procurement process that meets both state and Federal requirements.

The remaining funds are awarded for Mobility Management and other eligible operating uses. Only Federal funds can be used for these awards, which fund travel training, dispatch software, etc. This year 15 different local and regional agencies will receive these operating grants.

- MassDOT has convened the Regional a Transit Task Force created by the FY19 budget and two meetings have been held. There are 18 members of the Task Force, which is chaired by MassDOT. Eleven of the members were appointed by the Governor. Those appointments include bus planning experts, Mayors, members of Regional Transit Authority Advisory Boards, Regional Transit Authority Administrators, a representative of a business group, and a community transit advocate. The legislature appointed four members and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities appointed three. While the first meeting was largely organizational and used to identify topics of prime interest, the second meeting focused on the role of transit in economic development. The topic of performance metrics was also introduced.

Under the terms of the legislation that created the Task Force, recommendations are due to the Legislature by November 1. While the Task Force is following an

aggressive timetable, additional meetings and the development of a final report is likely to occur after November 1.

Rail

- Early action work for the South Coast Rail project is advancing as scheduled. The procurement process for long lead items is underway, design of the culverts and bridges is being finalized, and real estate acquisitions have begun.
- Work on the Hyannis Yard is substantially complete. These improvements will help the Cape Flyer and the dinner/tourism trains that operate out of Hyannis.
- Work on the Knowledge Corridor continues in anticipation of the pilot service to Greenfield that is expected to begin next May/June. MassDOT is working with local planners to develop the metrics by which the service will be judged and to help those sponsors frame a locally-funded marketing effort to promote the service.

